



**U.S. Department of
Transportation**

Office of the Secretary
of Transportation

Assistant Secretary

1200 New Jersey Ave., S.E.
Washington, DC 20590

February 15, 2008

Dr. and Mrs. Huntington Hapworth
105 North Church Street
Fairhope, Alabama 36532

Dear Dr. and Mrs. Hapworth:

Thank you for your December 24th e-mail messages to Senator Sessions and Senator Shelby supporting US Airways to serve Pensacola in the ongoing slot-exemption proceeding at Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport (DCA). The Senators forwarded your comments to the Department's Assistant Secretary for Government Affairs. As the allocation of slot exemptions at DCA falls under my responsibility, he has asked that I reply to your letter.

As you know, the U.S. Department of Transportation commenced a slot exemption proceeding on November 26 to re-allocate four slot exemptions that were returned to the Department by ATA Airlines, Inc. (ATA) on November 28. ATA had been using these four slot exemptions for DCA – Midway International Airport (MDW) service. These slot exemptions may be used to serve any medium hub or smaller airport, but it must be within the 1,250-mile perimeter of DCA. In response to the Department's request for applications, the Department received proposals from a total of five airlines to serve seven communities.

As the slot exemption proceeding is competitive and is currently under review by the Department, I am sure you understand that I cannot comment on the merits of the proposals. I assure you, however, that the Department will fully consider all of the proposals, and make its award based on the selection criteria detailed in the governing statutes.

As is our normal practice, I am placing a copy of your letter and my response in Docket DOT-OST-2000-7182 as a contact outside the record of this proceeding.

I appreciate your interest in this slot exemption proceeding.

Sincerely,

Michael W. Reynolds
Acting Assistant Secretary
for Aviation and International Affairs

cc: The Honorable Jeff Sessions, United States Senator
The Honorable Richard Shelby, United States Senator

DEPT. OF TRANSPORTATION
DOCKETS

2008 FEB 20 A 10:5

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-0104

January 4, 2008

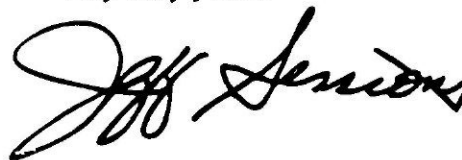
Mr. Shane Karr
Assistant Secretary for Governmental Affairs
U.S. Department of Transportation
400 Seventh St, SW, Room 10408
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Mr. Karr:

Please find attached a letter I recently received from Mr. and Mrs. Hapworth, constituents of mine in Fairhope, Alabama. As you will see, Mr. and Mrs. Hapworth contacted me to express their concern regarding US Airways' request to provide service from Pensacola, FL to Washington, DC. I am forwarding Mr. and Mrs. Hapworth's correspondence to you with the request that you may make note of Mr. and Mrs. Hapworth's concerns and, consistent with all applicable laws and regulations, address them in a direct response to them. I would also respectfully request that you provide me with a copy of any such response.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this matter. I look forward to your timely reply.

Very truly yours,



Jeff Sessions
United States Senator

JS:np

2008-8073

514172
690704

Shelby, Senator (Shelby)

From: ContactFormWebsite@shelby.senate.gov
Sent: Monday, December 24, 2007 3:31 PM
To: Shelby, Senator (Shelby)
Subject: Website Contact Form

Website Contact Form - submitted on 12/24/2007 at 03:31:10 PM:

Prefix: * Dr.
First Name: * Huntington
Last Name: * Hapworth
Address 1: * 105 North Church Street
Address 2:
City: * Fairhope
State: * Alabama
Zip Code: * 36532
Home Phone: * 2513000759
Work Phone:
E-mail: * hhapworth@nopaindr.com
Topic: * Transportation
Message: *

I am writing to support the application of US Airways to obtain a slot exemption in the Departments slot exemption proceeding noticed on December 17, 2007 Docket DOT-OST-2000- 7182-1505.

Pick a few bullet points and add your own comments that reflect this summary, please no form letters, make it your own support letter!

- Located along the Florida Gulf Coast, Pensacola is the largest population center in a region stretching over 400 miles between New Orleans in the west, and Jacksonville in the east. Pensacola's catchment area covers three states-Alabama, Florida and Mississippi.

- Pensacola's metropolitan area population is approximately 440,000 residents. Another 580,000 residents outside the metro area live within a one-hour drive of the Pensacola airport, increasing the total population served to over one million residents.

- The Pensacola region's economy consists of industries led by homeland security, tourism, health care and manufacturing. However, what ties Pensacola most strongly to the Washington area is the region's large military and defense presence.

- The total number of active duty military and federal employees in the Pensacola region is over 20,000, with another 30,000 retired military residents.

- Military installations in the area include Pensacola Naval Air Station, Whiting Field, Eglin Air Force Base, Corry Station, Duke Field, Saufley Field, Hurlburt

1/2/2008

Field, U. S. Air Force

Materiel Command Center for Air Armament, Naval Education & Training
Professional Development and Technology Center, Defense Activity for Non-
Traditional
Education Support, Naval Reserve Center, Technology Services Organization -
Pensacola, Center for Naval Leadership Detachment, U. S. Air Force 313,
Training Squadron,
Delta Company 344th Military Intelligence Battalion and Detachment 1 325th
Fighter Wing.

· In addition, numerous defense and aerospace contractors have a significant presence in both the Pensacola and Washington areas such as General Dynamics, Lockheed Martin, ARINC, BAE Systems and Raytheon.

· The entire Gulf Coast region - Pensacola, Mobile and Fort Walton - lacks non-stop service to DCA. In addition, neither Pensacola nor any of the Pensacola region's other airports have non-stop air service to Washington-Dulles or Baltimore. The other markets pleading for slot exemptions in this proceeding have service to one or more Washington area airports.

· Travel to DCA requires a time consuming connection over hubs in the southeast or midwest, or surface travel over three hours for non-stop service. Behind Oklahoma City, Pensacola is the largest within-perimeter market without non-stop service to the Washington area. Over 148 passengers per day each way travel out of Pensacola Regional Airport. Including the nearby communities, Pensacola is by far the largest market without service to any Washington area airport.

· In the last five years, demand for air travel from Pensacola to the Washington area has grown by 55%. Eliminating the connection to DCA or a drive to a different originating airport would reduce cost, time and inconvenience for federal government officials, residents and tourist to the Gulf Coast region. Like all Florida markets, Pensacola displays some seasonality in demand. US Airways is uniquely qualified to provide this service as it has multiple types of equipment to meet the traffic flows that vary from summer to winter.

· This service needs to be provided by a financially stable, low cost competitor with a strong network. US Airways posted profits of over \$500 million for 2006 (excluding special items), and has announced profits in the first 3 quarters of 2007. The new US Airways is a vigorous competitor bringing low fares and a customer- friendly attitude to the marketplace.

Thank you for considering my comments

This new service is critical to the future growth of the Pensacola area and the Gulf Coast Region it serves. Thank you in advance for your support.

Sincerely,

Hunt Hapworth

1/2/2008

iawrmmsg.txt
Capitol Correspond
Incoming Email Message

Constituent ID: 327813

Dr. and Mrs. Huntington Hapworth
105 North Church Street
Fairhope, AL 36532

Email: hhapworth@nopaindr.com

Activity Created: 1/3/2008

File Location: 478462

Interest Code(s): TRANS.

Incoming Message:

Date Received: 12/24/2007 3:29:48 PM

Topic/Subject Desc: TRANS

I am writing to support the application of US Airways to obtain a slot exemption in the Departments slot exemption proceeding noticed on December 17, 2007 Docket DOT-OST-2000- 7182-1505.

I feel this direct service between Pensacola and Washington DC has several important aspects:!

Located along the Florida Gulf Coast, Pensacola is the largest population center in a region stretching over 400 miles between New Orleans in the west, and Jacksonville in the east. Pensacola's catchment area covers three states-Alabama, Florida and Mississippi.

Pensacola's metropolitan area population is approximately 440,000 residents. Another 580,000 residents outside the metro area live within a one-hour drive of the Pensacola airport, increasing the total population served to over one million residents.

The total number of active duty military and federal employees in the Pensacola region is over 20,000, with another 30,000 retired military residents.

Military installations in the area include Pensacola Naval Air Station, Whiting Field, Eglin Air Force Base, Corry Station, Duke Field, Saufley Field, Hurlburt Field, U. S. Air Force Materiel Command Center for Air Armament, Naval Education & Training Professional Development and Technology Center, Defense Activity for Non-Traditional Education Support, Naval Reserve Center, Technology Services Organization - Pensacola, Center for Naval Leadership Detachment, U. S. Air Force 313, Training Squadron, Delta Company 344th Military Intelligence Battalion and Detachment 1 325th Fighter wing.

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iawrmsg.txt

non-stop air service to Washington-Dulles or Baltimore. The other markets pleading for slot exemptions in this proceeding have service to one or more Washington area airports.

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This service needs to be provided by a financially stable, low cost competitor with a strong network. US Airways posted profits of over \$500 million for 2006 (excluding special items), and has announced profits in the first 3 quarters of 2007. The new US Airways is a vigorous competitor bringing low fares and a customer-friendly attitude to the marketplace.

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Sincerely,

Hunt Hapworth